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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/708,314	02/24/2004	Darko Pervan	033462-044	2313
21839	7590	08/24/2007		
BUCHANAN, INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC POST OFFICE BOX 1404 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1404			EXAMINER LAUX, JESSICA L	
			ART UNIT 3635	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 08/24/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/708,314	Applicant(s) PERVAN, DARKO	
	Examiner Jessica Laux	Art Unit 3635	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 June 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8,9 and 13 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 10-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 February 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>06/07/2007, 05/23/2007</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgment is made of the amendment filed 06/07/2007. Accordingly the claims have been amended.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 06/07/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant remarks that Dahlberg does not teach or suggest floorboards that have connectors for locking in a horizontal direction. Examiner disagrees noting that the undulating pattern of the interlocking elements would prevent, when two tiles are interlocked, from movement in a horizontal direction (when one considers that movement in a horizontal direction includes movement in both a direction perpendicular and parallel to the edge of the tile), in that the edges of the undulations would catch each other preventing parallel horizontal movement.

Priority

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Sweden on 02/24/2003. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the 0300479-3 application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement filed 06/07/2007 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(1), which requires the following: (1) a list of all patents, publications, applications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office; (2) U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications listed in a section separately from

citations of other documents; (3) the application number of the application in which the information disclosure statement is being submitted on each page of the list; (4) a column that provides a blank space next to each document to be considered, for the examiner's initials; and (5) a heading that clearly indicates that the list is an information disclosure statement. The information disclosure statement has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2, 5-7, 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dahlberg et al (3120083).

Regarding claims 1 and 10: Dahlberg discloses floorboards comprising a surface layer (11) and a core (14), for making a floating flooring, which floor are mechanical lockable and which along their edge portions have pairs of opposing connectors for locking similar, adjoining floorboards to each other both vertically and horizontally (Col. 1, lines 15-22; Col. 2, lines 32-36; and figure 3, wherein the surface layer comprises flexible resilient fibers (pile fabric; Col. 2, lines 62-63).

Regarding claim 2: Floorboards as claimed in claim 1, wherein the core of the floorboard contains wood fibers (Col. 3, lines 2-3).

Regarding claim 5: Floorboards as claimed in claim 1, wherein the floorboards are rectangular or square (figure 3) and that two opposite sides can be joined by inward angling, whereby upper adjoining joint edge portions are in contact with each other (Col.

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4, lines 36-45; where the tiles can be joined by sliding the tiles together by inward angling and the upper edges are in contact).

Regarding claim 6: Floorboards as claimed in claim 5, wherein the upper adjoining joint edge portions of the floorboards are compressible and can be changed in shape in connection with joining (where the upper surface is a pile carpet which is compressible).

Regarding claim 7: Floorboards as claimed in claim 1, wherein the surface layer consists of flexible resilient fibers (Col. 2, lines 62-63).

Regarding claims 11-12: The floorboard as claimed in claim 10, wherein a second pair of opposing edge portions has pairs of opposing connectors for locking said floorboard to a similar, adjoining floorboard vertically and/or horizontally (Col. 1, lines 15-22; Col. 2, lines 32-36; and figure 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dahlberg (3120083).

Regarding claim 3: Dahlberg discloses the floorboards as claimed in claim 1 above, but does not expressly disclose that the surface layer is made of needle felt.

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Instead Dahlberg discloses a pile carpet. However, it is well known in the industry to use needle felt for carpet pile, furthermore applicant has not disclosed that using a needle felt, rather than any other type of carpet, provides an advantage or solves a problem. Applicant also discloses in paragraph [0022] that any fiber-based surface is acceptable. Therefore it is an obvious matter of design choice to use needle felt as the surface as one of ordinary skill in the art would know to do. Therefore this feature does not patentably distinguish over the prior art of Dahlberg.

Regarding claim 4: Dahlberg discloses floorboards as claimed in claim 1 above, but does not disclose that the surface layer has a density below 400 kg/m³. However, Dahlberg discloses that the surface layer is a carpet, which is equivalent to the claimed surface layer and therefore has a density below 400 kg/m³ thereby significantly lowering the sound level.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jessica Laux whose telephone number is 571-272-8228. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 6:30am to 2:30pm (est).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Chilcot can be reached on 571-272-6777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



/J. CHAPMAN/
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3635

JL
08/13/2007